(c) by when Government would formulate a policy regarding drinking water so that nobody can play with the health of people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Standards of packaged drinking water prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955 are as per international standards prescribed by Codex. This product is being manufactured and sold under compulsory certification scheme of BIS. The product sold by various companies has to conform to the prescribed standards

Water has been excluded from the definition of food prescribed under PFA Act, 1954, so drinking water is not a subject matter of Ministry of Health.

Central Research Institute

†2071. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Polio Vaccine being prepared by the Central Research Institute, Kasauli is only one fourth of the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any suggestion to increase the production in this institute and to set up another similar institute for this purpose; and

(c) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto and by when a final decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Central Research Institute, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh does not manufacture Polio Vaccine.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Anti-Retroviral Treatment

2072. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH \ND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any attempt to provide anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment to HIV infected persons;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken for selecting the ARV drugs, if any;

(c) the details indicating the number of persons to be treated and the fund required for the purpose, State-wise; and

(d) whether any steps would be taken to provide adequate funds to the States for ARV treatment, AIDS prevention and treatment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 17th November, 2003 with the pharmaceutical industry producing Anti-retroviral Drugs under the chairpersonship of Minister of Health & Family Welfare, to discuss the modalities on affordable anti-retroviral therapy to AIDS patients.

As a follow-up of this meeting, a working group was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Health) with representatives from Pharmaceutical companies, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to suggest ways for reduction in the prices of anti-retroviral drugs and testing diagnostic equipment required for the treatment of the people living with HIV/AIDS. The Anti-retroviral drugs identified for the treatment programme are Stavudine, Lamivudine, Nevirapine, Zidovudine and Efavirenz.

(c) It is expected that during the 1st year of ARV treatment programme approximately 100,000 AIDS patients would be covered from six high prevalence states namely Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur and Nagaland. Funds required for ARV drugs and various investigations are estimated to be approximately 200 crores for the 1st year of Anti-retroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS patients. State-wise requirements of funds have not been worked out, so far.

(d) Yes, Sir.

AIDS Surveillance System

2073. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any surveillance system to provide reliable estimates and trace changes in HIV and AIDS prevalence;